

Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Missions Celebration fills First, Biloxi

By Tony Martin
Associate Editor

The 2005 Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU) Missions Celebration at First Church, Biloxi, on April 8-9 was filled with a mixture of music, missions, moving testimonies, and great fellowship.

This year's theme was Mississippi Christ Followers, using Acts 1:8 as a source Scripture. "I sense an urgency to be about God's mission," announced Kay Cassibry, Mississippi WMU executive director-treasurer. "I sense a fresh wind, a renewal, a renovation!"

Highlights of the 2005 Missions Celebration included several mission projects scattered over the Gulfport-Biloxi coastal area on the morning of April 8. The afternoon of April 8 included the first performance of Laurita Miller of Pelham, Ala., who portrayed several biblical characters through monologue. On the afternoon of April 8, she portrayed Dorcas; on the evening of April 8, she portrayed Mary, the mother of Jesus; and on the morning of April 9, she portrayed Lydia.

Portraying Mary the mother of Jesus, Miller said, "I once had the privilege of calling Jesus my Son; but know I have the greater privilege of calling him my Savior and Lord."

The evening of April 8 featured worship music by the First Church, Biloxi, choir and orchestra, including a missionaries flag procession.

Cassibry and Betty Davis, Mississippi WMU president and member of First Church, McComb, recognized the missionaries present.

Ed Deuschle, director of church planting for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB), shared a testimony, and David Michel, MBCB associate executive director for mission strategy, brought the evening message.

"We're in kind of an historical hinge — postmodernism," said Michel. "We are being challenged

to be more relevant than we've ever been. Americans are more interested in spiritual meaning than ever before, and they are searching for that meaning."

Developing the theme of Acts 1:8, Michel stated, "True Christ followers will work through their doubts and uncertainties. We have to be careful about writing off an Acts 1:8 challenge, because it can make a difference in our lives and churches. It's not right to say we have a corps of specialists to do the work. We are all to be missional. Christ followers see through the fog of the future until they see the Kingdom of God in their hearts."

A special treat on the morning of April 9 was the opportunity to meet missionaries and parents of missionaries. R. T. Buckley of Picayune, retired missionary to Bangladesh, spoke of his experiences on the mission field. "We found ourselves in southeast Bangladesh in an area where we thought God had never been, but we learned that He had been there all along, because during our time there over 200 churches were established there. God had prepared the soil."

Bill Williams, a member of New Hope Church, Hickory, is the father of a missionary to China. "I've enjoyed the weekend for all the good preaching and good people here," he said.

Irene Brown, a member of Arlington Church, Bogue Chitto, spoke of her daughter who is serving in southeast Asia. "God called her before she was even born," she said. "When God takes your children, He takes care of them."

Breakout sessions on the morning of April 9 included:

- Pass on the Passion.
- Acts 1:8 Prayer Challenge.
- Mobilizing Mississippi for Missions.
- A Church Planting Strategy for Reaching the Lost in Mississippi.
- A Church's Response to Disaster Relief.
- Other conferences by invitation only rounded out the morning.

The April 9 plenary conference included the Choctaw Women's Choir; testimonies from Lynn Mackey, Archie Herrin, and Courtney Selvey, all associational missions directors; the election of officers; and the passing of the presidential from gavel Davis to new-elected President Donna Swarts, member of Goodwater Church, Magee.

Other April 9 features included a president's address by Davis; testimonies from Rebecca and Billy Williams, missionary parents; and closing remarks by Cassibry.

Reflecting on her four years as Mississippi WMU president, Davis said, "The very first time I did a meeting all by myself was after I was elected in January of 2001. It was the March following, and God really worked in that meeting."

"I've noticed younger women becoming involved and getting groups started on their own," Davis said. "They are reaching out; they don't want to just read. They want to be involved in hands-on missions. It is growing, and doing a lot better than people know."

When asked by a reporter if she could give any encouragement to the incoming president, Davis said, "Well, I would say be flexible. I know that's a cliché, but it's true."

"Things are changing, even though we don't always know what those changes will be. Change is good, and the future is bright."

The WMU Annual Missions Celebrations are supported by gifts to the Mississippi Cooperative Program.

For more information about Mississippi WMU, contact the department at P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 292-3319 or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651, ext. 319. E-mail: spruitt@mbcb.org.



PRAISES IN A NATIVE TONGUE — A highlight of the WMU Annual Missions Celebration on April 8-9 at First Church, Biloxi, was worship music provided by the Choctaw Women's Choir featuring native Americans in traditional dress and singing in the Choctaw language. (BR photo by Tony Martin)

LEADERSHIP CHANGE — Betty Davis (left), outgoing president of Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), passes the presidential gavel to incoming President Donna Swarts, a member of Goodwater Church, Magee, during the 2005 WMU Missions Celebration at First Church, Biloxi, on Apr. 8-9. (BR photo by Tony Martin)



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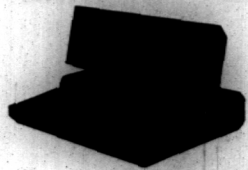
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EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



**William H.
Perkins Jr.**
Editor

EDITOR

William H. Perkins Jr.
wperkins@mbcb.org

ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Tony Martin
tmartin@mbcb.org

LAYOUT/DESIGN
Matt Broome
mbroome@mbcb.org

ADVERTISING
Dana Richardson
drichardson@mbcb.org

CIRCULATION MANAGER
Brenda Quattlebaum
bquattlebaum@mbcb.org

EDITOR EMERITUS
Don McGregor

Baptist Record Advisory Committee:
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Postmaster:
Send changes of address to: **The
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Jackson, MS 39205-0530.**

Tel: (601) 968-3800
Fax: (601) 292-3330
E-mail: baptistrecord@mbcb.org

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Save the dolphins!

It was one of those truly touching animal rescue stories in which we humans find such reassurance of our humanity. For some unknown reason, dozens of rough-tooth dolphins beached themselves around the Florida Keys in early March.

There was a great stirring in the national news media over the plight of these poor creatures. Nearly half of them have died so far, and two dozen other sickly dolphins are being attended at the Marine Mammal Conservancy in Key Largo, Florida. A call has gone out for volunteers to care for the remaining dolphins in around-the-clock shifts, and conservancy officials are asking for urgently needed special care items such as Pedialyte, Gentamycin, multivitamins, gallon-size Zip-Loc bags, and gift certificates from Home Depot.

In addition to the stories pleading for volunteers and supplies, one widely-circulated report even came with an Associated Press photo of Marine Mammal Conservancy officials inserting a feeding tube into one of the weakest dolphins.

A feeding tube! Would that we had had so much sympathy for Terri Schiavo, the brain-damaged Florida woman who died a few weeks ago after her life-sustaining feeding tube was removed and she starved/dehydrated to death.

What's wrong with this picture? The sicker a dolphin becomes, the more desperately we try to save its life. The sicker a human becomes, the swifter we try to take his/her life from them. A dying dolphin receives sustenance at all costs, while a dying human is denied the same treatment and sentenced to an agonizing death. A defenseless dolphin is saved, while a defenseless human is killed.

To all thinking people of any age group — Christian or not — this surely

makes no sense. Is all innocent life precious, or is such a designation reserved only for animals lower than humans? If the latter is indeed the case, why? It is insane that a society that so passionately seeks to protect rare frogs, 500-year-old trees, and wetlands would so willingly turn its back on innocent human life.

Sadly, we live in age that can no longer discern the difference between good and evil, and in many cases proclaims the goodness of evil. Equally as sad, we live in an age when the first resort to any inconvenient situation, like that of Terri Schiavo, is death — but only for the most innocent and defenseless humans involved.

Is your 15-year-old daughter inconveniently pregnant out of wedlock? Death to the baby! Is your Alzheimer's-stricken mother inconveniently keeping you from living your life as you please? Death to the elderly! How about your father, a stroke victim languishing in a nursing home and inconveniently eating up your inheritance day by day? Death to the infirm!

In some parts of the world — the Netherlands, for instance — ailing humans can be put to sleep for no other reason than their scarce hospital bed is needed by someone else. In some authoritarian countries, a bucket of water rests at the foot of every delivery room table so that unwanted or "illegal" babies can be drowned immediately. In Texas, a special hospital bioethics committee can decide when it's time to pull the plug on a loved one with-

"QUICK—WHERE ARE
THE COMICS?"



out considering the family's wishes. In Oregon, medical professionals can assist in voluntary suicides. The list goes on.

In America, we condemn those who would save the life of someone like Terri Schiavo, while in the same breath we applaud those who would save the life of one of God's lesser creatures. We are truly a schizophrenic people.

Is God pleased by such conduct? Judging by the Bible's unmistakable lessons, we will most certainly find out in the years to come.

GUEST OPINION:

The dangers lurking in Muslim schools

By Daniel Pipes
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania



Shocked" is how Aisha Sherazi, principal of the Abraar Islamic school in Ottawa, described the reaction of the school's administration and board on learning that two of its teachers had incited hatred of Jews, and "shocked" was how Mumtaz Akhtar, president of the Muslim-Community Council of Ottawa-Gatineau, described his own reaction to the front-page news about the Abraar school.

They may have been the only two persons on the planet to be "shocked" to learn that teachers at an Islamic school are promoting anti-Semitism or other aspects of the Islamist agenda. The fact is, inquiries into Islamic schools repeatedly uncover just such a radical Islamic outlook. Some examples:

- **New York City:** An investigation by the New York Daily News in 2003 found that books used in the city's Muslim schools "are rife with inaccuracies, sweeping condemnations of Jews and Christians, and triumphalist declarations of Islam's supremacy."

- **Los Angeles:** The Omar Ibn Khattab Foundation donated 300 Korans (The Meaning of the Holy Quran) to the city school district in 2001 that within months had to be pulled from school libraries because of their anti-Semitic commentaries.

- **The Muslim Community School** in Potomac, Md., imbues in its students a sense of alienation from their own country. Seventh-grader Miriam told a Washington Post reporter in 2001, "Being American is just being born in this country." Eighth-grader Ibrahim announced that, "Being an American means nothing to me."

- A textbook used at the **Islamic Saudi Academy** of Alexandria, Va., in 2004, authored and published by the Saudi Ministry of Education, teaches first-graders that "all religions, other than Islam, are false, including that of the Jews [and] Christians." An ISA class valedictorian, Ahmed Omar Abu Ali, was recently indicted for plotting to assassinate President Bush.

- The U.S. government revoked the visas in 2004 of 16 people affiliated with the **Institute for Islamic and Arabic Sciences** in America, of

Fairfax, Va. In the words of the Washington Post, "That decision followed accusations that the institute, a satellite campus of al-Imam Muhammad Ibn Saud Islamic University in Riyadh, was promoting a brand of Islam that critics say is intolerant of other strains of the religion as well as Christianity and Judaism." In addition, the IISA is under investigation for ties to terrorism.

- **The Graduate School of Islamic Social Sciences** of Ashburn, Va., referred to as a "purported" educational institution in an affidavit justifying a raid on the school, had its financial records seized in 2002 on suspicions of links to terrorism.

Nor are schools the exception among Islamic institutions in North America. A recent study by Freedom House found a parallel problem of venomous anti-Jewish and anti-Christian materials in U.S. mosques. The most

prominent American Muslim organizations, especially the Council on American-Islamic Relations, spew anti-Semitism and hosted a neo-Nazi. The same applies in Canada, where the head of the Canadian Islamic Congress, Mohamed Elmasry, publicly endorsed the murder of all Israelis over the age of 18.

So long as Muslim leaders simply declare themselves, in the spirit of Capt. Renault in the movie *Casablanca*, "shocked, shocked" whenever news of Islamist supremacism leaks out, this cancer will continue unabated. The Islamic schools, the mosques, and other Muslim organizations like CAIR and CIC will continue their cat-and-mouse game so long as it works.

It won't work only when outside pressure is brought to bear on them by politicians, journalists, researchers, moderate Muslims, and others. They must state clearly and frequently the unacceptability of Islamist venom. Only then will today's fraudulent "shocked" reaction finally become sincere.

Pipes, director of the Philadelphia-based Middle East Forum, is author of numerous books on the troubled region. His website is www.danielpipes.org. Pipes' commentary appears courtesy of Baptist Press.

New sites attracting college web searchers

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (BP) — University of Texas (UT) student Ashley Cook checks the mailbox outside her off-campus dormitory five days a week. The third-year student is, however, a "compulsive e-mail checker" who sifts through the contents of her three e-mail accounts as many as four times each day.

She also spends time online chatting with friends, researching, completing school projects, and just browsing the Internet. So it's no surprise that Cook originally became involved in the Baptist Student Ministry (BSM) at UT-Austin after visiting the organization's webpage.

Increasingly, ministry leaders are finding that reaching collegians with information about college ministry news and events means venturing into cyberspace with interactive and up-to-date websites.

The CollegeMinistryLINK service of LifeWay Christian Resources is a custom edition of LifeWayLINK, a website tool for ministries. The new college edition of the service features templates and designs specifically geared to churches and campus organizations with student ministries.

For several years, UT BSM director Jimmy Daniel tried to offer an informative website for the ministry, but consistency proved a problem. As the technology-minded students who maintained the website graduated, it routinely fell into outdated disarray.

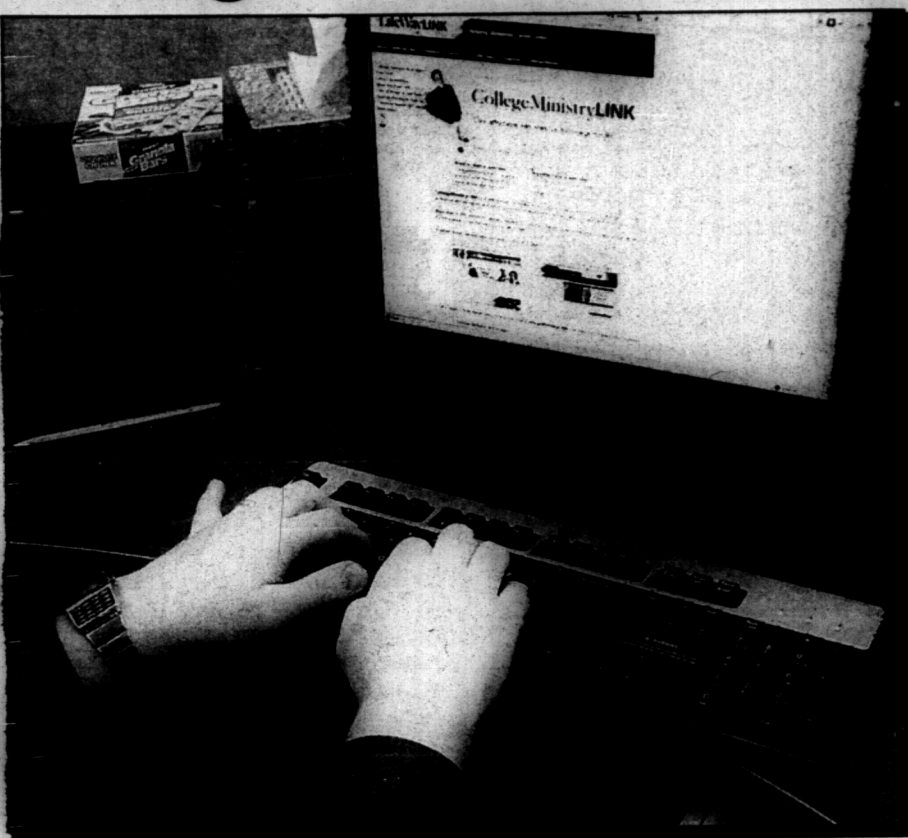
The dilemma wasn't unique to UT. Gary McClure, marketing manager for LifeWay's e-business department, said the idea for a custom version of LifeWayLINK was "born out of feedback from campus directors and student pastors who need a Web solution to effectively impact today's students. They asked for a no-hassle service that is easily managed by several people, therefore becoming 'graduation-proof.'"

Daniel said the CollegeMinistryLINK service the BSM now uses is easy enough for him personally to update the material on the website.

"I don't have to know HTML or FrontPage to change the content," he said. "Before, I was dependent upon a student who was Web-savvy to make the changes. The simplicity is its strength."

An effective BSM site will help current college students and high school students who are researching college options understand exactly what the ministry has to offer, Daniel said. "I felt like it was important to have a website that communicates who we are."

The website targets new students at UT who are already Christians and are seeking a Christian environment, Daniel said. "I want to get them involved as quickly as possible



so they have that Christian support," he said, pointing out that only about 3,000 of UT's 52,000 students attend Christian services or events.

Using the website's calendar tool helps Daniel easily inform students of opportunities to participate in numerous BSM activities, which helps students "find a way to plug in."

Helping students plug into a community also is one of the main goals David Anglin, college pastor at Longview Heights Church in Olive Branch, has for the website he maintains through CollegeMinistryLINK.

Olive Branch isn't a college town, but several schools are in the proximity and his college program averages about 50 students each week. "I want [the website] to be a place people can frequent that becomes a ministry arm of our church and provides a sense of community," he said. "Community provides accountability and encouragement and challenge."

He said he hopes to one day use the CollegeMinistryLINK's discussion board feature to keep in touch with Longview students who leave home for college. "It seems like in college your rela-

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tionships start to get deeper and the community becomes more important," Anglin said. "The discussion board is key to creating that sense of community."

Daniel said connecting students is important at the University of Texas, as well, and the prayer link feature of the CollegeMinistryLINK service is helping create that sense of community.

The link allows students to send their prayer requests directly to Daniel and his staff. The petitions for prayer are posted on the BSM's site so others can offer support.

"We really have a group that prays, so I think that [link] is going to be something that is big," Daniel said, adding that students began submitting requests as soon as the new site went live in February.

For more information on CollegeMinistryLINK, visit www.lifewaylink.com/college.

Averett exits BGAV

RICHMOND, Va. (ABP) — Virginia Baptists have approved a joint statement developed with leaders of Averett University that will end their 145-year-old ties to the Danville-based school. The vote by the Virginia Baptist Mission Board — which is authorized to act for the Baptist General Association of Virginia (BGAV) — ends a century-and-a-half relationship clouded the past two years by disagreements over homosexuality. The most recent flap — the celebration of a gay pride week by a school-approved gay advocacy group — prompted the latest discussion and the joint statement. "Because of our current differences, we now resolve to walk separate paths with blessings on one another, recognizing that these paths might join again at a future time," said the joint statement, which was drafted by Mission Board leaders and Averett's president and trustee chair at a March 17 meeting. In practical terms, "separate paths" will mean dissolving a covenant approved last year between the BGAV and Averett and ending the BGAV's long practice of nominating a portion of Averett's trustees. Last year, in response to an earlier disagreement over homosexuality, the BGAV redirected its annual financial allocation to Averett — in recent years totaling about \$350,000 — to a new theological education initiative in Roanoke. "We take this action without bitterness or ill will but with a strong resolve," said BGAV executive director John Upton, an Averett graduate. "Our position has long been clear and decisive that homosexuality is a lifestyle that goes against Scripture and is contrary to stated Virginia Baptist core values." Averett president Richard Pfau did not return phone calls to the BGAV newsjournal, the Religious Herald, on April 7, but he told the Roanoke Times that day, "What we've recognized is that the [BGAV] has a set of core values and there's no reason why they should compromise those. Likewise, Averett has a set of core values," about academic inquiry, for instance, "and unfortunately at this point in time, they're not compatible."

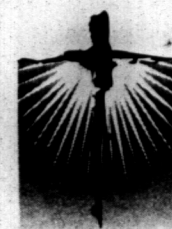
Averett drew the ire of some Virginia Baptists in the fall of 2003 when the chair of its religion department wrote an article published in a Danville newspaper endorsing the ordination of an openly gay Episcopal bishop. At about the same time, John Shelby Spong, a controversial retired Episcopal bishop, delivered two lectures on campus, where he reportedly said that the God revealed in a literal reading of the Bible is "immoral" and "unbelievable."

Looking back

1 year ago
A total of 24 students from the Mississippi State University Baptist Student Union are involved in a spring break mission project to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Half the students participated in a religious emphasis week at a bilingual school; the other half worked in evangelism with the LaJoya Baptist Church.

2 years ago
Topisaw Church in Lincoln County honors Pearl Reeves for 70 years of active and continuous service, having been baptized in 1915 at age 13 in Topisaw Creek just behind the home in which she was born and still resides.

50 years ago
Douglas Hudgins begins his tenth year as pastor of First Church, Jackson. The church is Mississippi's largest church and one of the Southern Baptist Convention's largest churches.



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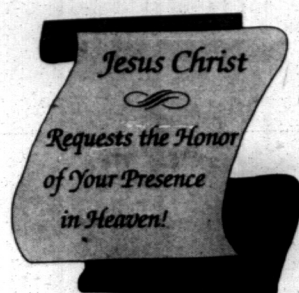
THE
SECOND
FRONT PAGE

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**YOU CAN RESPOND
RIGHT NOW!**

*Simply share the following prayer
with God in your own words:*

1. Lord, I admit that I need you. *(I have sinned.)*
2. I want forgiveness for my sins and freedom from eternal death. *(I repent.)*
3. I believe Jesus died and rose from the grave to forgive my sins and to restore my relationship with you. *(I believe in Jesus.)*
4. By faith, I invite Jesus Christ into my life. From this time on, I want to live in a loving relationship with Him. *(I receive Christ as my Savior and Lord.)*

*"But as many as received him,
to them he gave the right to
become children of God, even to
those who believe in his name."
(John 1:12)*

*If you make a decision for
Jesus Christ today, contact a
local Baptist church for spiri-
tual guidance.*

NO WORRIES

Worry is a killer. It did not take modern science to figure that out, although they have affirmed and reaffirmed that worry can worry you to death. Permit me, if you would, to make a brief distinction between concerns and worries. There are many things in life about which we ought to be concerned and because of that concern give thought, mental energy, and even emotional response in an effort to change things, make a difference, and help out. For instance, suppose one night that a strong moving cold front moves through and associated with it are winds, hail, and torrential rains. You awake during the night to hear all of the commotion, and the next morning you discover that there are pieces of your roof missing and some leaks have developed that are going to need immediate attention. You begin to consider what to do. You are concerned about your house, your family, and how to get repairs made. Your concern may drive you to get up on the roof and put some covering over the damaged areas. You may go to the telephone to call for the help of a repairman or roofer who can get the job done. Your concern may lead you to move some things around in your house and even put some pots and pans under the leaking areas. That is not worry! That is why God gave us brains — so that we could think through, analyze, come up with a plan of action, and then put it into motion. Every day in some way everyone has concerns that call for you to respond.



Directions

Jim Futral, executive director-treasurer
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

Worry is a different animal. Oftentimes, worry has no basis for what it is producing and even when it does, worry tends not to have any plan of action or response mechanism that will help change anything. Worry is oftentimes about things that actually have no solution. There is a big difference between worry and concern. Let's suppose you are worried about something that you do not have any basis for stewing about. You are concerned that you could possibly have a malignancy or you spend time thinking about an airplane that could fall out of the sky on your house. Maybe you could touch a doorknob that had some flesh eating disease lurking on it and you could be gone in a matter of days. While I suppose each of these things may be possible, at the moment they do not exist for most folks. Look at it just a little closer. To some degree there is not a whole lot that you can do about any of those things. Right now you are not taking any immediate and personal action, so why do you worry about them? I do suppose you could crawl in a bunker somewhere and not breathe, but that would not be wise either.

Here is the positive difference in concern and worry. When there are things that you do not know and things which you cannot change, there is still a plan of action because you can get to God and you can trust Him. You can trust Him when you don't know, and you can trust Him when no one else can help. Solomon, the wise man of the Old Testament, said "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all of thy ways acknowledge him and he shall direct thy paths." Isn't that a glorious thing? It relieves a lot of worry, helps us act on a lot of concerns, and keeps us connected with the One who is in charge of all of life's events whether they come as a surprise to us or not.

I heard a fellow say something the other day that just blessed my heart. He and his wife were leaving an office when he cheerfully said, "I don't have a worry in the world." The fellow with whom he was talking said, "Is that right?" He said, "Man, no. My neighbors take care of all my business and my wife spends all of my money, so what do I have to worry about?" He laughed

and started for the door. I laughed and thought, "That guy has a healthy view of life, doesn't he?" Of course, he was just joking. He had a sweet, gentle, and happy spirit about him that I am confident just flowed in and out of his day, all day long.

Jesus told us we could live like that. Anxiety does not have to control our life. "Consider the lilies of the field: they toil not, neither do they spin." They don't work themselves up into a frenzy, for the Heavenly Father gives them life, beauty, and sustains them through their cycle. What more can you ask? Jesus would ask, "How many of you can add one inch to your height by worrying?" None of us! So enjoy being short and thank God that you are not tall like some folks who have to go around ducking every time they go through a door. Now that is something to cause you to worry!

Why don't you stop worrying? You will probably live longer and folks will enjoy you living longer for sure. You will enjoy the blessings of God without question. Why not do just like the fellow said and let your neighbors take care of your business for you and let your wife spend your money, and you — why don't you just trust God to bless you, guide you, and use you for His glory. You will find that your worries become less and less worrisome as you walk with Him and trust Him.

*The author may be contacted at
P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-
0530. E-mail: jfutral@mbcb.org.*

REVIVALS & HOMECOMINGS

Bethel Church, Drew: Revival, Apr. 24-27. Sun. 11:00 a.m.; 7:00 p.m. nightly. Tommy Stacy, Jonesboro, Ark., speaking; Jimmy Smith and Nina Taylor, music; special music by Providence Quartet, Brandy Ward, and Bryan Sherwood. Larry Chouccoli, pastor.

First Church, Houlka: Apr. 24-27. Sun., 10:50 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. followed by covered dish meal; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m. Chris Craven, guest speaker; Melinda Kopp, music. David Blackwell, pastor.

Phalti Church, Covington-Jefferson Davis Association: 100th anniversary, Apr. 24, 10:00 a.m. with covered dish lunch following.

Trinity Church, Pearl: Revival, Sun., Apr. 24, 11:00 a.m.; Ken Harrison, Kennedy Springs Church, Mendenhall, preaching; James Netherland, Pearl Quartet, music. Kenny Goff, pastor.

Cairo, Ecu: Revival, Apr. 24-28. Billy Dowdy, preaching; James Matthews, Mike Hudson, and Tammy Anderson, music.

Union, Roxie: Homecoming, Apr. 24; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; fellowship meal after worship; Roy McKay, speaking; Carl Evans, pastor.

Indian Springs, Petal: Revival, Apr. 24-27. Sun., Sunday School, 10 a.m.; services at 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m. Don Boone, evangelist; Bobby Shurden, music; Brad Howard, pastor.

Sandersville Church, Sandersville: Revival, Apr. 24-27. Sun., 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m.; Jimmy Stewart, Temple Church, Hattiesburg, evangelist; Mark Taylor, Temple Church, Hattiesburg, music; Donnie Parker, pastor.

Maranatha Church, Mize: Revival, Apr. 24-27. 7:00 p.m. nightly. Randy Von Kanel, evangelist; Doug Ware, music; Danny Adams, pastor.

Airport Church, Grenada: Homecoming, May 1. Worship 11:00 a.m., lunch noon. Kerry Nelson, Grace Memorial Church, Tupelo, preaching and singing.

North Carrollton, North Carrollton: Revival, Apr. 24-27. Sun., 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; dinner on the grounds Sunday noon; Mon.-Wed. noon with light lunch and 7 p.m.

Tuscola Church, Lena: Revival, Apr. 24-27. Sun., 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m. Paul Smith, New Liberty, Morton, evangelist; Mike Donavan, music. Smith Sanders, pastor.

Grace Church, Philadelphia: Harvest Night Revival with Danny Lanier, Apr. 28, 7:00 p.m. Chris Vowell, pastor.

Providence Church, Grenada County: 175th anniversary, April 30-May 1. Sat., 3:00-5:00 p.m., games, horseback riding, cookout, and gospel music; Sun., 10:30 a.m., presentation from Southern Historical Commission followed by potluck dinner. Neil Gant, preaching; Harvey Springer, pastor.

Leesburg Church, Morton: Revival, May 2-4. Sun., 10:45 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m.; Wed. — Youth Night, 6:00 meal and

fellowship. Don Taylor, evangelist; Reggie and Debbie Daughtery, music.

New Salem Church, Franklin Association: Homecoming and 125th anniversary celebration, May 1, 10:30 a.m., preaching by Wiley Reid followed by dinner on the ground; 1:00 p.m., anniversary celebration with history and singing.

Oak Grove, Mendenhall: Homecoming, May 1, 10:30 a.m.; Don Kleeb, preaching; Jim Harris, worship leader; mini concert with Bob and Jim Harris; fellowship and dinner on the grounds following. Gary Lawson, pastor.

Union Church, Union: Homecoming, May 1. 10:45 a.m. Brent Bozeman, speaker; music by The Next Generation; Larry Russell, pastor.

Valley Hill Church, Greenwood: Homecoming, May 1, 11:00 a.m.; Fred Lawrence, preaching; lunch and music by the Promised Quartet. Bob Blakely, pastor.

Parkway Church, Hernando: Revival, May 1-4. Sun., 9:30 a.m., 10:45 a.m., and 6:00 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m.; U.S. Army Chaplain A.M. "Sonny" Moore, minister; Johnny Coggins, music director. Nursery provided. For more information, call (662) 429-6045.

Puckett Church, Puckett: Revival, May 1-4. Sun., 11:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7:00 p.m. David Sheppard, evangelist; John Alumbaugh, music leader.

First Church, Boyle: Homecoming, May 15. Sun., 11:00 a.m. followed by covered dish noon meal. Afternoon entertainment by Emmanuel Quartet from Emmanuel Church, Greenville. Earnest Sadler, visiting pastor; Lloyd Lunceford, song director.

Clear Springs, Coffeeville: Homecoming, May 8.

Laurel Hill Church, Philadelphia: Revival, May 4-8. Wed.-Sat., 7:00 p.m.; Sun., 11:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Billy Henry, First Church, Edinburg, preaching; Jim Worthing, Nashville, Tenn., music.

What I tell you in the darkness, speak in the light; and what you hear whispered in your ear, proclaim upon the

HOUSE TOPS.

Matthew 10:27 NAS

April 21, 2005

HouseTops is a Baptist Record supplement produced by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Communication Services.

Mississippi Baptist Chaplains' Association Spring Retreat Gulfshore Baptist Assembly April 29-30, 2005

The retreat leader will be **Carl White**, pastor, Highland BC, Meridian, and he'll be speaking on the theme, "Faith Care: Helping People in Times of Need."

There is no cost for members/spouses of the association. For nonmembers the cost is \$50. Registration begins at 2 p.m. on Friday, April 29, with a seafood dinner at 5:30. The retreat concludes after lunch on Saturday.

For more information about the Chaplains' Association or attending the retreat, please call Elaine Smith, Evangelism Department, at 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3278 or E-mail esmith@mbcb.org.

OLDER CHILDREN'S Bible Drill Camp 2005



Mississippi
BIBLE
DRILL



For Church Groups of Boys
and Girls Grades 3 - 6
(completed)

\$45 Deposit with Registration
Total Cost \$90

July 7 - 9 Central Hills Baptist Retreat

For info: 601-292-3287 or 1-800-748-1651



GA Mother Daughter Overnight

June 24-25

Camp Garaywa
Cost \$35

Mother/Daughter overnight is a special time for mothers and their GA daughters (grades 1-6) to share the excitement of missions learning. Activities include worship, campfire, crafts, recreation and a missionary visit. All overnights begin at 5 p.m. on Friday and end at 2 p.m. on Saturday.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: JUNE 7

If space is still available after the deadline date, reservations will be accepted at the cost of \$40 per person. No refunds after the deadline date.

Please remember these WMU procedures: Please mail in your registration with payment. Reservations may not be made by phone. Groups wishing to bunk together must register together. Whenever possible, please send one check for the entire group.

GA Mother/Daughter Overnight

Church Name _____

Association _____

Contact Person _____

Address _____

Daytime Phone _____ Evening _____

Parent's Name _____

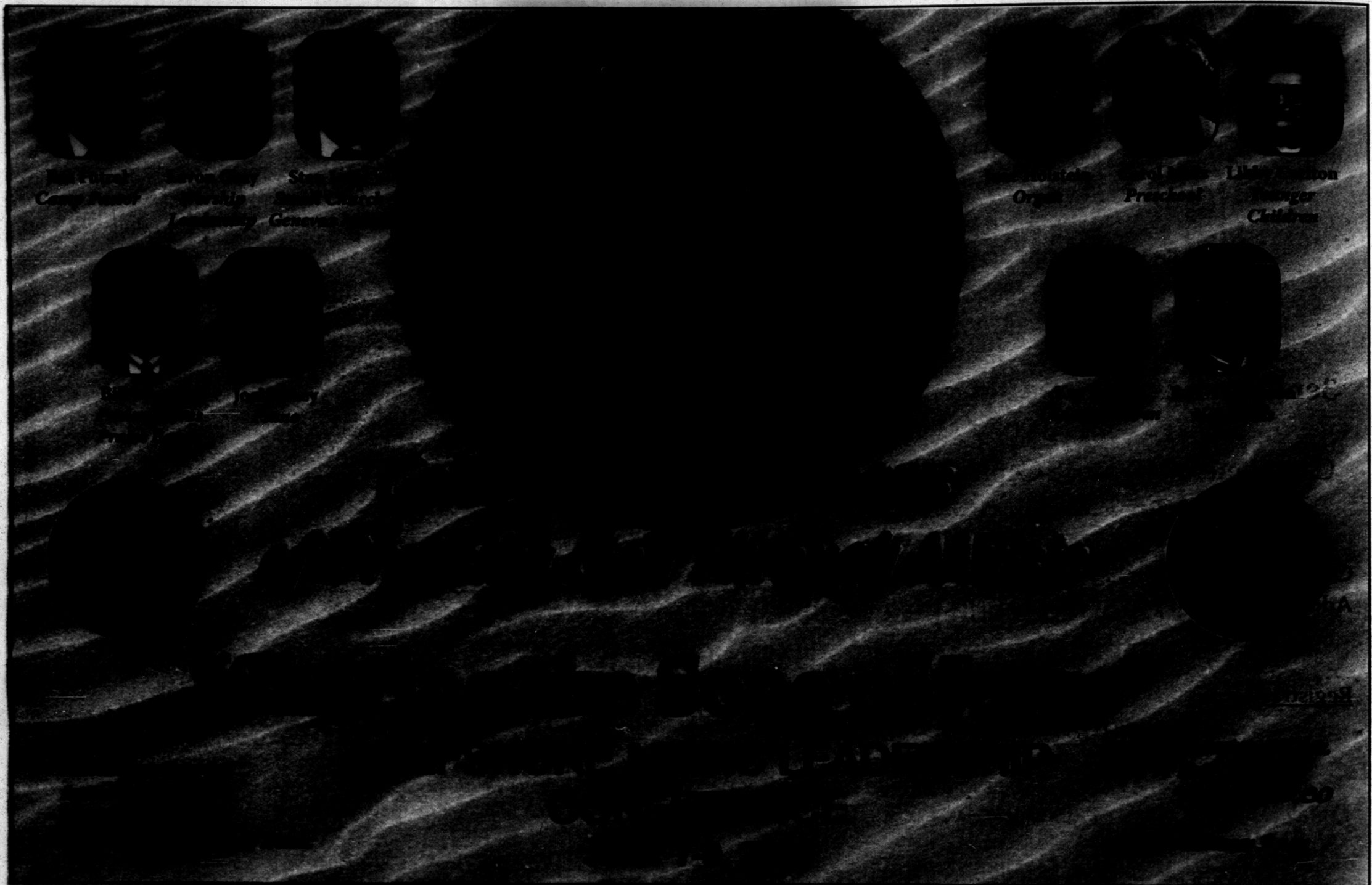
Daughter's Name _____ Age _____

Number attending _____ X \$35 = _____

Make checks payable to: Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB)

Send to: Camp Garaywa
Mother/Daughter Overnight
312 Camp Garaywa Road
Clinton, MS 39056

For info: 1-800-748-1651 or 601-292-3319



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 Acts 1:8 Challenge

ACTS 1:8 DISCIPLESHIP

July 28-31
 Gulfshore Baptist Assembly

Make reservations with

Gulfshore Baptist Assembly,
 100 First Street
 Pass Christian, MS 39571.
 Phone reservations
 can be made using Visa or
 MasterCard
 by calling 228-452-7261
 or by fax at 228-452-7263.

For program information

DISCIPLESHIP AND FAMILY
 MINISTRY DEPARTMENT
 at 1-800-748-1651
 or E-mail: dhicks@mbcb.org

Familias del Reino

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3er Retiro Anual del Compañerismo Hispano

Mayo 20-21, 2005

Campamento Bautista Central Hills, Kosciusko, MS

¡Actividades para todas las edades!

Conferencista: Gabriel César, de Cd. Satélite, Mexico

Adoración guiado por: Jorge Jaenz, Honduras

Registración

Para los que registran antes del 5 de Mayo

Costo: \$20 por persona (máximo \$80 por familia)

\$10 por niño 2-12 años

Camiseta en su talla garantizada

Para los que registran después del 5 de Mayo

Costo: \$30 por persona (máximo \$100 por familia)

\$15 por niño 2-12 años

Habrà camisetas pero sin garantía de tallas

Use la forma de registraci3n provisto o bajala en el Internet, www.mbc.org
envíe por correo

Church Planting Department

PO Box 530

Jackson, MS 39205

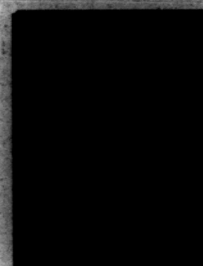
o e-mail

hwinters@mbcb.org

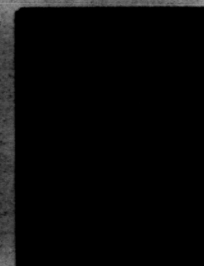
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MISSISSIPPI
July 11-15, 2005

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David Platt
Speaker



Chris Layton
Worship Leader

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2005 Preaching & Worship Conference

PASTORAL PREACHING



Summer 2005 at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, Miss.

Offering Senior Adult, Youth and Children Camps, Pastor & Wives Conferences,
Music Leadership Events, Family Enrichment, and Growing Church Events

Conference dates and availability listed at www.MBCB.org or call 228-452-7261 for more information and registration

Pray this day for...

April 22 - May 5, 2005

Prayer Ministry Office • P.O. Box 530 • Jackson, MS 39205-0530 • Phone 601-292-3304 • Mississippi PrayerLine 1-800-787-7729 (PRAY)

"I have been driven many times to my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go."

Abraham Lincoln

For: (1) Life Commitment Sunday (P/LD Emphasis); (2) The church building in Garango, Burkina Faso, is complete except for putting on the roofing and shutters. Pray that this will be accomplished before the rainy season begins.

For: (1) Preaching/Workshop Conference, FBC, Biloxi (P/LD); (2) A Lebou Team member in Senegal reports: "God has begun to move among the Lebou people. It is so amazing to hear a group of men on Tuesday nights lift up the name of the Lord in praise and worship. Pray that they will see Him high and lifted up and come to know Him."

For: (1) Preaching/Workshop Conference, Highland Colony BC, Ridgeland; (2) The Epic Partnership is where the IMB and three other major missions organizations are joining together to work at reaching the last of the unreached people groups of the Central, Eastern and Southern Africa region with the gospel.

For: (1) Secretaries Day; (2) Praise the Lord for Baptist representatives Bruce and Sofi C. who have accepted the position of strategy coordinators for Bulgaria. Pray for Bruce to see exactly where God is working there as he travels and meets with the pastors of the existing churches. Pray for Bruce as he continues to study the language.

For: (1) Baptist Building Retirees Luncheon; (2) Andrew Ehlers, a church planter in Bethany Beach, Del., and Tanya, his wife, do resort and campus ministries. Pray for the Ehlers' ministry as they reach the unchurched, and for more leaders to Delaware.

For: (1) Acteen Activator Training, Camp Garaywa, Clinton, 22nd-23rd (WMU); (2) Pray for doors to open in Northwest Mexico City, Mexico, for more key leaders to be exposed to and trained in Church Planting Movement strategies.

For: (1) Mississippi Missionary Fellowship, Camp Garaywa (WMU); (2) Steve Ekiund, Altoona, Wis., works with Jacob's Well ministry. Pray that finances will be available to purchase land as they look for a location to build a new church and praise God for gifts already given.

For: (1) Christian Home Week (D&FM Emphasis); (2) Praise God for His persistent and unending love that pursued a young Middle Eastern Muslim man for several years, sending witness after witness into his life. He has found new life in Christ! Pray for him to be burdened to witness to other Muslims.

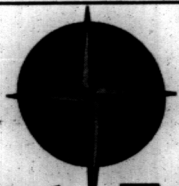
For: (1) "Growing the Church Through Sunday School" - Small Church Pastor/SS Director Conference, Tusculumbia, BC, Booneville (SS); (2) Pray for Prime Minister Miguel Abia Biteo Borico of Equatorial Guinea (western Africa between Cameroon and Gabon).

For: (1) "Growing the Church Through Sunday School" - Small Church Pastor/SS Director Conference, Calvary BC, Columbia (SS); (2) State Senior Adult Choir Festival, Country Woods BC, Byram (CM).

For: (1) Baptist Building Staff AT HOME DAYS, 4th-6th; (2) A radio listener in Saudi Arabia writes: "I am a Muslim and have listened to your program a long time. I am eager to change my faith, because I love Jesus Christ. What should I do? Pray for P, a Muslim-background believer who produces and answers mail like this for the Urdu broadcast in India."

For: (1) Preschool/Children's Ministers Retreat, Camp Garaywa, 5th-6th (Preschool/Children's Ministry Team); (2) African American Churches Workshop, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly (CPD); (3) An experienced Welsh pastor is leaving his post to join the Connect Ministry. Pray for him to raise his financial support.

Thank the Lord for good rains in recent days for the Sukuma land of Tanzania. Crops in some areas were damaged in February during extended periods without rain. Please ask the Lord to continue sending rain regularly through mid to late May, as is common in this area for the rainy season.



Christ Followers

Special Speaker
Sheryl Churchill
National WMU Consultant

Additional 2005 WMU Training

CLTs

FBC, Amory, Aug. 23
Camp Garaywa, Aug. 26-27
Main Street BC, Hattiesburg, Aug. 30

WMU Conference & Weekender

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3 events in 1

Discover the Joy of Missions

WMU Training Conference, Sept. 28-30
World Bazar, Sept. 30, 1:30 - 5 p.m.
Missions Celebration Weekender
Sept. 30 - Oct 2

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Friday, May 13 - Saturday, May 14

Camp Garaywa

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- From Maintenance to Missional
- Seeing Beyond the Horizon
- I'm Still Struggling
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- Designed to Serve
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For more information, contact Mississippi WMU at 1-800-748-1651
or visit mbcb.org/mission_strategy/wmu

HOUSE TOPS

JUST FOR THE RECORD



1. Disaster Relief Team, Yalobusha Association

1. Yalobusha Association has started a disaster relief team, which met at **Delay Road Church**, for a chainsaw safety class on March 12. Shown are some of the class attendees, left to right: seated, Kathleen Martin Fly, Dot Dennis; standing, Curtis Dennis, Billy Starnes, Donald Miller, Andy Grass, Lane True, and James Fray.

2. Members of **Hollywood Church, Sledge**, honored their pastor Roy Hartzell and his wife Claire on their 10th anniversary of service to the church with a surprise "January Bible Study" Carnival cruise, which docked in Freeport, Nassau, and Half Moon Cay.

3. Bible Drillers, Grades 4-6, of **First Church, Greenwood**, advanced to State Bible Drills where all received either excellent or superior ratings. Shown are, front row from left: Sarah Johnson, Joseph Tillman, Avery Alderman, Heather Pate, Sara Grace Hemphill; second row: Barrett Johnson, Kristen Stephens, Liz Grantham, Cooper Anderton, Alec Dunn; back row: Hardin DeLoach, Robby Baine, Kimberly Carol Barrett, Georgia Smith.

4. Five youth Bible Drillers of **First Church, Greenwood**, attended the State Bible Drill competition where they all received superior ratings.

Shown are, front row, from left: Stephanie Baine, Ashton Alderman; second row: Taylor DeLoach, Rachel Dillard, and Christina Pate.

5. Adult Bible Drillers of **First Church, Greenwood**, include, front row from left: Betty Sue Wilson, Judy Woodcock, Valerie Lake, Debra Miller-Drill Leader; second row: Robbie Wilson, Elizabeth Alderman, Lisia Cannon, Bonnie DeLoach, back row: Stephen Miller, Bubba DeLoach, Jason Lake, Barry Cannon.

6. Woman's Missionary Union Metro Association Spring Meeting, **Salem Church, Learned**, Apr. 25, with supper at 5:45 (\$5) and meeting at 7 p.m. Kathy Burns, guest speaker. Please bring items to assist with the ladies' ministry of New Life Church (body spray or mist, hygiene items, lotion, deodorant, bath gel, lip balm, or gloss.)

7. The music ministry of **First Church, Richland**, will present Hillsong's Blessed April 23-24, 6 p.m.

8. **Euclatubba Church, Saltillo**, recently licensed Mark Harris, Rainer Jumper, and Brandon Higgins to the Gospel ministry.

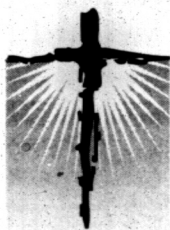
9. **First Church, Chicora, Buckatunna**, honored pastor David Roberson with a sur-

prise 10-year anniversary celebration Apr. 10. Shown are Roberson with his wife and three sons.

10. **First Church, Winona**, honored John L. Walker and his wife Delores upon his retirement as pastor Feb. 20. He had served fourteen-and-a-half years as pastor.

11. **Monticello Church, Monticello**, will receive a Church Health Award during the 2005 Purpose Driven Church Conference May 17-20 at Saddleback Church, Lake Forest, Calif. Monticello is one of 80 churches from 37 states to receive this award. Jon Daniels, pastor, and Jason Wade, associate pastor of students and activities, will attend the conference to receive the award.

12. The 1st-6th grade GA class of **North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton**, recently participated in the Christmas in April Tsunami Shoebox Ministry to collect items for tsunami victims. Shown, from left, front: Kayla Davis, Laynee Claire Marchant, Katie Holman, Molly Davis, and Allie Dunn; back, Maggie Lloyd, Jordan Haynes, Ann Marie McClain, and Taylor McArthur.



MISSISSIPPI
BAPTISTS

STAFF CHANGES

Foxworth Church, Foxworth, welcomes **Charles L. Nail** as pastor. He and wife Sonja are the parents of three married children and have eleven grandchildren. He has served in Mississippi and Louisiana since 1955. Nail attended Mississippi College, Southeastern Louisiana College, and received his Master of Divinity from Southern Theological Seminary.



3. Children Bible Drillers, First Church, Greenwood



4. Youth Bible Drillers, First Church, Greenwood



5. Adult Bible Drillers, First Church, Greenwood



9. Roberson Family, First Church, Chicora, Buckatunna



12. GAs, North Carrollton Church, North Carrollton



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COLLEGE NEWS

Fred Greco, a business attorney and student at Reformed Theological Seminary, spoke about the Practical Effect of a Christian Perspective in the Legal Environment at the Apr. 5 meeting of the Christian Legal Society at the Mississippi College School of Law.

THE VILLAGE VIEW



Dr. Rory Lee, Executive Director

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www.baptistchildrensvillage.com

Gifts of Honor and Memory

A portion of **The Village View** is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful, and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

MARCH 1-31, 2005

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* denotes a correction made to an entry previously published with an error.

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FAMILY BIBLE STUDY

Humble Living

James 4:1-10, 13-17

By Rick Henson

God has truly blessed America financially. Some would respond, "Brother Rick, you haven't seen my checkbook lately." Yet our country continues to lead the world in per capita income. Statistics at www.whitehouse.gov/fsbr/income.html show that we earn over \$27,000 per person and over \$43,000 per household. Some parts of our state are considerably higher than that. The remainder of the world lags far behind this. Our government considers the poverty level for a family of four to be just over \$22,000 annual income (figures from 2003). Other than the U.S.A., a few oil-rich countries, Japan, Germany, France, Italy, Spain, Australia, and England, the rest of the world earns about 10% of what we consider poverty. I travel

often to Romania on mission trips. The average household income there is about \$2,500 per year, and Romania is not even a third-world country.

Our income is high, but so is our debt. Newsweek magazine in their August 27, 2001 cover article offers a bleak outlook. "Sixty percent of American families actually spend more than their after-tax income. Even more astounding is the fact that 32 million families (i.e. 80 million people) run an annual average deficit of \$8,160."

James 4:14 teaches us, "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." If we spend most of our short while on earth chasing debt, then how can we serve the Lord



Henson

with the great resources He has given us? George Barna's research shows that only seven percent of evangelicals gave a tithe in 2003. Sadly, over twice that number, 18%, gave nothing at all to their churches. With great blessings comes great responsibility. According to those statistics, most Christians are not being responsible with these great financial blessings. "Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts," James 4:3. Instead of seeing God's financial blessings as a tool with which to serve Him, we view it as a vehicle to get what we want. To lust means to desire something that is wrong. Lust may be a sexual desire, or greed. Instead of using our money to spread the Kingdom of God around the world, we are busy trying to build our own kingdom. Remember that Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be

added unto you," Matthew 6:33. How can we give money to start churches around the world and here at home when we spend it all on ourselves? A verse in one of our focal passages says, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin," James 4:17. Humble living must include submitting our finances to the Lord. Deuteronomy 8:18 tells us, "But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he swore unto thy fathers, as it is this day." God gives us the ability to create wealth. All that we have is from Him and should be committed to Him. The tithe should be returned to the Lord through His church (Malachi 3:10). We are also accountable to the Lord for what we do with the remaining ninety percent. What are you investing in the kingdom of God? God is looking for some humble people to do His will. "For all those things hath mine hand made, and all those

things have been, saith the LORD: but to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit, and trembleth at my word," Isaiah 66:2. John MacArthur wrote about being humble before God, "It is only when the things of the world are no longer admired and sought, when self-concern is replaced with concern for God's glory, that God's Spirit can work His sovereign and gracious will in a heart, changing it from being an enemy to being a friend."

"Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and he shall lift you up," James 4:10. Humble living means being responsible with God's gifts and investing our finances and ourselves in His kingdom.

Rick Henson is pastor of Oakdale Baptist Church, Brandon.

¹<http://www.barna.org/FlexPage.aspx?Page=BarnaUpdate&BarnaUpdateID=161>

²MacArthur's New Testament Commentary: James ©1998 by John MacArthur, Jr. Electronic Edition STEP

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EXPLORE THE BIBLE

Lead Others to the Lord

Jeremiah 31: 27-34

By Billie Buckley

Have you figured out where we have been and where we are going in this study of Jeremiah? This may be a good thing to do now that we are smack-dab in the middle of our journey. Let's regroup and sit-a-spell and look at the map of our stops.

- **First Stop:** to contemplate Jeremiah and his mission being one in Jeremiah 1-18
- **Second Stop:** to discern the coming captivity of Judea in Jeremiah 28
- **Third Stop:** to linger over God's promise on the eve of their exile in Jeremiah 31
- **Fourth Stop:** to watch the events of Jerusalem's fall in Jeremiah 36, 37
- **Fifth Stop:** to progress into the events after the fall in Jeremiah 44

- **Sixth Stop:** to awaken to prophecies against Babylon in Jeremiah 50
- **Seventh Stop:** To overhear the funeral songs for Jerusalem in Leviticus 3

Time to move on from the map study to reminders in Jeremiah 28: 27-34 to reclaim a clean heart by: receiving the Lord's forgiveness; restoring hope while suffering; releasing others from being accountable for our sins; responding to God's love relationship.

Let's restore the hope of His blessings while suffering. (vv.27-28) God told Jeremiah the time was coming when He would turn everything around for Israel and Judah.

In the midst of His watching over them His message was, "Don't despair."



Buckley

God had been plucking up, breaking down and throwing away to destroy their turning from Him. Now he had a blessing for them. Sad, but today many want the blessing without the Giver of the blessing.

Can we stop the blessing? In one sense the answer is, "Yes." On the other had, the answer is,

"No." We will never be cut off and be cast out from the blessing of being His child. Yet, there is a connection between what God will do and what we are willing to be and do. If we refuse to do our part, we cut ourselves off from God's part of the earthly blessings. We see this connection in the forgiveness part of the Lord's Prayer, don't we?

"Forgive us our trespasses and we forgive those who trespass against us."

Let's release others from being accountable for our sins. (vv. 29-30) With the use of a paraphrase from the "Message" we might be able to better understand this point.

"In coming days no one will say parents ate the green apples and the children got the stomachache. Each person will pay for his own sin. You eat green apples; you're the one who gets sick."

The way I understand this, the way to get well is to say, "I am sick. I ate the green apples. I have sinned. I am responsible for my own stomach ache."

If we look in "The Best of Oswald Chambers" we will find some good news about dealing with our sin.

"Sin is nothing but a big bully if you are a Christian. Sin was killed at the cross of Christ. It has no power over those who have been set free by the Atonement of Jesus and now live in a right-standing relationship with God in Christ Jesus." Now that's one more blessing!

Finally, let's respond to God's invitation to a new relationship. (vv.31-34) This new relationship of relating to God is called the new covenant in these verses. Here we see two contrasting ways: the new

covenant written in Jesus' blood and the old covenant written on stone. What is the difference? The old covenant sought to establish a relationship with God based on human efforts and being good. The new covenant bases this relationship with God on His readiness to forgive and His gift of grace. (God's resources are Christ's expense.)

Know this: God has no problems, only plans. He planned the old covenant and the new covenant. The plan for the old covenant was to show us righteousness. The plan for the new covenant gives Christ's righteousness to those who through faith are "in Christ Jesus."

Many Biblical scholars consider this portion on the covenant to be Jeremiah's greatest contribution to Bible truth.

Next stop in our study is Stop Number Four: The Events in Jerusalem's Fall. Be prepared. Be forgiven. Be blessed.

Buckley is a member of Petal Harvey Church, Petal.

Guidelines for submitting news and photographs

The Baptist Record is pleased to publish news and photographs of special events that take place in cooperating churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention.

News submitted for publication in The Baptist Record must be either (a) typewritten, (b) neatly printed on 8 1/2 by 11-inch paper, or (c) neatly printed on standardized forms provided by the newspaper. All articles must be received in writing; no articles will be accepted over the telephone.

News may be submitted electronically to the address below, and must be contained in the message segment of an e-mail form. Due to increasing virus threats, no text attachments will be accepted. Photograph attachments are permissible.

Please make articles concise. Include the who, what, when, where details of the story, along with a contact person's address and telephone number.

Photographs may be color or black and white. Instant photos and digital printouts

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Articles that are not date-sensitive will be published on a space-available basis. Requests to return photographs must be accompanied by a self-addressed, stamped envelope.

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Clue: A = B

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Third John Eleven.

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Crossover event planned before SBC meet

DICKSON, Tenn. (BP) — Dianne Burgess and Paul Fimano plan to be among the thousands from across the nation sharing their faith in a special evangelistic thrust June 18 in Nashville, just prior to the start of the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention.

Burgess, whose heart for sharing her faith helped heal the brokenness in her family, and Fimano, who led his daughter Faith to faith in Christ when she was seven, will reach out in much the same way they do every week as members of First Church in Dickson, a growing town of 12,000 about 40 miles west of Nashville.

"I don't know if you've ever led someone to Christ, but it is the most awesome thing," Burgess said between morning worship services April 3 during which Southern Baptist Convention President Bobby Welch was the featured speaker.

"I've done a lot of things in my life, been a lot places," Burgess said, "but there's nothing that compares to that experience of leading someone to Christ."

Welch is speaking at churches in Tennessee and neighboring states to build momentum for the June 18 Crossover evangelistic thrust by volunteers from across the region and the nation preced-

ing the SBC's June 21-22 annual meeting in Nashville. Also atop Welch's agenda is the "Everyone Can Kingdom Challenge! Witness, Win, and Baptize ... One Million!" challenging Southern Baptist churches to baptize one million people during the 2005-06 church year.

The eternal fate of family members, friends, and countless others should stir Christians to take their faith out from the and into communities filled with people who know they need God, Welch told First Church members.

Burgess and Fimano have put feet to Welch's words as have numerous others in the Dickson congregation, many of whom are involved in the FAITH Sunday School Evangelism Strategy pioneered by Welch and now widely used in Southern Baptist churches.

"When I heard about FAITH, I knew it was for me, even though I was at a point in my life where I wasn't sure it was even going to please God if I was a good witness anymore," Burgess said. "My marriage was falling apart [and] my daughter hadn't spoken to me in four months."

Nevertheless she joined a FAITH study on Jan. 12, 2003, to better learn how to share the



BURIED IN CHINA — A young child, age 10, is buried by Lee Whitley, pastor of First Church, Washington, Mo., during the Jesus Family Picnic, a Crossover event held June 12, 2004, at Garfield Park near downtown Indianapolis. Crossover evangelistic events are scheduled each year in the city hosting the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, just prior to the start of the meeting. This year's Crossover event will be in Nashville on June 18. (BP photo)

Gospel, "and on April 11, 2003, my daughter called me late one night to talk to me, and through our conversation I led her to Christ over the telephone."

"I knew then that FAITH worked and that I was going to use it many, many more times, that it was not just words on paper, but they were in my

heart and I was going to use them for the rest of my life," said Burgess, who now leads one of the Dickson church's FAITH visitation teams.

For more information on participating in Crossover Nashville and to register for the event, visit www.everyonecan.net, or call toll-free (877) 324-8498.

MS Positions

PART-TIME SECRETARY: Summerland Baptist Church in Taylorsville, Miss., is seeking a part-time secretary. Hours will be Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.- noon. To receive an application please contact Tim Lee at (601) 729-4402, e-mail timlee@megagate.com or Suzanne Bullock at (601) 498-8226, e-mail sbullock@trustmark.com. Applications should be returned by May 25, 2005.

PART-TIME YOUTH/CHILDREN'S MINISTER: Antioch Baptist Church, Brandon,

Mississippi. Seeking a part-time youth and children's minister. Please send resumes and references to Antioch Baptist Church, 2350 Hwy 43 S., attn: youth/children's search committee, Brandon, MS 39042.

MINISTER OF EDUCATION/ SENIOR ADULTS NEEDED. Send resume to First Baptist Church of Poplarville, c/o minister of education search committee, P.O. Box 191, Poplarville, MS 39470. Or email fbcppminsearch@bellsouth.net no later than May 6, 2005.

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SALE STREET BAPTIST CHURCH is searching for a full-time student minister to focus on youth grades 6-12 and college students. Send resume to youth minister search committee, P.O. Box 5215, Lake Charles, LA 70606.

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Due to the generosity of many faithful Christian stewards, the Foundation has the privilege of providing needs-based supplemental financial assistance to Mississippi students who are pursuing a degree at a Mississippi Baptist college or a Southern Baptist seminary. Most of these endowed scholarship accounts offer specific eligibility guidelines for awarding a scholarship grant. Factors such as field of study, institution attended, and scholarship amount often are included as stipulated criteria for award consideration.

For more information about the Mississippi Baptist Foundation Scholarship Ministry, please contact our office at Post Office Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, telephone us at (601) 292-3210, or (800) 748-1651, or visit our website, www.mbc.org/agencies/mbf. A completed application must be received in the MBF office by April 30.



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